
Building for Discovery

Strategic Plan for U.S. Particle Physics in the Global Context

Executive Summary



Executive Summary

Particle physics explores the fundamental constituents of matter and energy. It reveals the profound connections underlying everything we see, including the smallest and the largest structures in the Universe. The field is highly successful. Investments have been rewarded recently with discoveries of the heaviest elementary particle (the top quark), the tiny masses of neutrinos, the accelerated expansion of the Universe, and the Higgs boson. Current opportunities will exploit these and other discoveries to push the frontiers of science into new territory at the highest energies and earliest times imaginable. For all these reasons, research in particle physics inspires young people to engage with science.

Particle physics is global. The United States and major players in other regions can together address the full breadth of the field's most urgent scientific questions if each hosts a unique world-class facility at home and partners in high-priority facilities hosted elsewhere. Strong foundations of international cooperation exist, with the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN serving as an example of a successful large international science project. Reliable partnerships are essential for the success of international projects. Building further international cooperation is an important theme of this report, and this perspective is finding worldwide resonance in an intensely competitive field.

Choices are required. Ideas for excellent new projects far exceed what can be executed with currently available resources. The United States must invest purposefully in areas that have the biggest impacts and that make most efficient use of limited resources. Since the 2008 Particle Physics Project Prioritization Panel (P5) report, two major U.S. particle physics facilities have terminated operations, and inflation-adjusted funding in the U.S. for particle physics has continued to decline. In addition, primarily because of earlier strong investments, landmark discoveries have been made that inform choices for future directions. A new P5 panel was therefore charged to provide "an updated strategic plan for the U.S. that can be executed over a ten-year timescale, in the context of a twenty-year global vision for the field." The Charge calls for planning under two specific budget Scenarios, reflecting current fiscal realities, as well as for an additional unconstrained Scenario.

Snowmass, the yearlong community-wide study, preceded the formation of our new P5. A vast number of scientific opportunities were investigated, discussed, and summarized in Snowmass reports. We distilled those essential inputs into five intertwined science Drivers for the field:

- **Use the Higgs boson as a new tool for discovery**
- **Pursue the physics associated with neutrino mass**
- **Identify the new physics of dark matter**
- **Understand cosmic acceleration: dark energy and inflation**
- **Explore the unknown: new particles, interactions, and physical principles.**

The vision for addressing these Drivers with a prioritized set of projects, including their approximate timescales and how they fit together, was developed using a set of selection criteria. The Drivers, which are intertwined, are not prioritized. Instead, the prioritization is in the selection and timing of the specific projects, which are categorized as large, medium, or small based on the construction costs to the particle physics program.

To enable an optimal program, given recent scientific results and funding constraints, and using our criteria, we recommend some projects not be implemented, others be delayed, and some existing efforts be reduced or terminated. Having made these choices, the field can move forward immediately with a prioritized, time-ordered program, which is summarized in Table 1 and includes the following features:

- The enormous physics potential of the LHC, which will be entering a new era with its planned high-luminosity upgrades, will be fully exploited. The U.S. will host a world-leading neutrino program that will have an optimized set of short- and long-baseline neutrino oscillation experiments, and its long-term focus is a reformulated venture referred to here as the Long Baseline Neutrino Facility (LBNF). The Proton Improvement Plan (PIP-II) project at Fermilab will provide the needed neutrino physics capability. To meet budget constraints, physics needs, and readiness criteria, large projects are ordered by peak construction time: the Mu2e experiment, the high-luminosity LHC upgrades, and LBNF.
-

- The interest expressed in Japan in hosting the International Linear Collider (ILC) is an exciting development. Participation by the U.S. in project construction depends on a number of important factors, some of which are beyond the scope of P5 and some of which depend on budget Scenarios. As the physics case is extremely strong, all Scenarios include ILC support at some level through a decision point within the next 5 years.
- Several medium and small projects in areas especially promising for near-term discoveries and in which the U.S. is, or can be, in a leadership position, will move forward under all budget scenarios. These are the second- and third-generation dark matter direct detection experiments, the particle physics components of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) and cosmic microwave background (CMB) experiments, and a portfolio of small neutrino experiments. Another important project of this type, the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI), will also move forward, except in the lowest budget Scenario.
- With a mix of large, medium, and small projects, important physics results will be produced continuously throughout the twenty-year P5 timeframe. In our budget exercises, we maintained a small projects portfolio to preserve budgetary space for a set of projects whose costs individually are not large enough to come under direct P5 review but which are of great importance to the field. This is in addition to the aforementioned small neutrino experiments portfolio, which is intended to be integrated into a coherent overall neutrino program.
- Specific investments will be made in essential accelerator R&D and instrumentation R&D. The field relies on its accelerators and instrumentation and on R&D and test facilities for these technologies.

Several significant changes in direction are recommended:

- Increase the fraction of the budget devoted to construction of new facilities.
- Reformulate the long-baseline neutrino program as an internationally designed, coordinated, and funded program with Fermilab as host.

- Redirect former Project-X activities and some existing accelerator R&D to improvements of the Fermilab accelerator complex that will provide proton beams with power greater than one megawatt by the time of first operation of the new long-baseline neutrino facility.
- Increase the planned investment in second-generation dark matter direct detection experiments.
- Increase particle physics funding of CMB research and projects in the context of continued multiagency partnerships.
- Realign activities in accelerator R&D with the P5 strategic plan. Redirect muon collider R&D and consult with international partners on the early termination of the MICE muon cooling R&D facility.

The two constrained budget Scenarios differ by approximately \$30M per year until FY2018, and thereafter have a one percent escalation difference. While seemingly small, these differences would have very large short- and long-term impacts: in the lower funding Scenario, in addition to the aforementioned loss of DESI, accelerator R&D and advanced detector R&D would be substantially reduced; research capability would be compromised due to personnel reductions; ramp up of funding for the long-baseline neutrino program would be delayed (preliminary work would still proceed immediately in both scenarios); third-generation direct detection dark matter capabilities would be reduced or delayed; and a small reprofiling of Mu2e would be necessary. Thus, the relatively small increment in funding in the higher Scenario yields a very large return on investment.

The lowest budget Scenario is precarious: it approaches the point beyond which hosting a large (\$1B scale) project in the U.S. would not be possible while maintaining the other elements necessary for mission success, particularly a minimal research program, the strong U.S. leadership position in a small number of core, near-term projects, which produce a steady stream of important new physics results, and advances in accelerator technology. Without the capability to host a large project, the U.S. would lose its position as a global leader in this field, and the international relationships that have been so productive would be fundamentally altered.

The recommendations for the unconstrained budget Scenario focus on three additional high-priority activities:

- Develop a greatly expanded accelerator R&D program that would emphasize the ability to build very high-energy accelerators beyond the HL-LHC and ILC at dramatically lower cost.
- Play a world-leading role in the ILC experimental program and provide critical expertise and components to the accelerator, should this exciting scientific opportunity be realized in Japan.
- Host a large water Cherenkov neutrino detector to complement the LBNF large liquid argon detector, unifying the global long-baseline neutrino community to take full advantage of the world's highest intensity neutrino beam at Fermilab.

With foundations set by decades of hard work and support, U.S. particle physics is poised to move forward into a new era of discovery. More generally, we strongly affirm the essential importance of fundamental research in all areas of science.

Table 1

Summary of Scenarios

Project/Activity	Scenarios			Science Drivers					Technique (Frontier)	
	Scenario A	Scenario B	Senario C	Higgs	Neutrinos	Dark Matter	Cosm. Accel.	The Unknown		
Large Projects										
Muon program: Mu2e, Muon g-2	Y, ^{Mu2e small reprofile needed}	Y	Y					✓	I	
HL-LHC	Y	Y	Y	✓		✓		✓	E	
LBNF + PIP-II	Y, ^{LBNF components delayed relative to Scenario B.}	Y	Y, enhanced		✓			✓	I,C	
ILC	R&D only	R&D, ^{possibly small hardware contributions. See text.}	Y	✓		✓		✓	E	
NuSTORM	N	N	N		✓				I	
RADAR	N	N	N		✓				I	
Medium Projects										
LSST	Y	Y	Y		✓		✓		C	
DM G2	Y	Y	Y			✓			C	
Small Projects Portfolio	Y	Y	Y		✓	✓	✓	✓	All	
Accelerator R&D and Test Facilities	Y, reduced	Y, ^{some reductions with redirection to PIP-II development}	Y, enhanced	✓	✓	✓		✓	E,I	
CMB-S4	Y	Y	Y		✓		✓		C	
DM G3	Y, reduced	Y	Y			✓			C	
PINGU	Further development of concept encouraged				✓	✓			C	
ORKA	N	N	N					✓	I	
MAP	N	N	N	✓	✓	✓		✓	E,I	
CHIPS	N	N	N		✓				I	
LAr1	N	N	N		✓				I	
Additional Small Projects (beyond the Small Projects Portfolio above)										
DESI	N	Y	Y		✓		✓		C	
Short Baseline Neutrino Portfolio	Y	Y	Y		✓				I	

TABLE 1 Summary of Scenarios A, B, and C. Each major project considered by P5 is shown, grouped by project size and listed in time order based on year of peak construction. Project sizes are: Large (>\$200M), Medium (\$50M-\$200M), and Small (<\$50M). The science Drivers primarily addressed by each project are also indicated, along with the Frontier technique area (E=Energy, I=Intensity, C=Cosmic) defined in the 2008 P5 report.

Figure 1

Construction and Physics Timeline



FIGURE 1 Approximate construction (blue; above line) and expected physics (green; below line) profiles for the recommended major projects, grouped by size (Large [$> \$200\text{M}$] in the upper section, Medium and Small [$\leq \$200\text{M}$] in the lower section), shown for Scenario B. The LHC: Phase 1 upgrade is a Medium project, but shown next to the HL-LHC for context. The figure does not show the suite of small experiments that will be built and produce new results regularly.



**Report of the Particle
Physics Project
Prioritization Panel**
